

In addition, some 600 Baha'is have suffered arbitrary arrests since 2004. The number of Baha'is arrested and/or imprisoned has increased dramatically in the past two years. In January 2011, 56 were in prison and 230 were awaiting trial, appeal, or sentencing; currently, there are 110 in prison and 436 awaiting the other procedures.

Followers of the Baha'i Faith, founded in Iran in 1863, are regarded as infidels and have suffered persecution both before and after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Baha'i teachings emphasize the oneness of God, the unity of humankind, the underlying harmony of major religions, universal education, and the equality of women and men.

I support House Resolution 109 condemning the Iranian government for its persecution of its Baha'i minority. I call on my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join in co-sponsoring this resolution and my Senate colleagues in co-sponsoring Senate Resolution 75.

RAYANNA ROMERO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rayanna Romero for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Rayanna Romero is a 9th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rayanna Romero is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Rayanna Romero for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING SING FOR HOPE AND
THE SING FOR HOPE PIANOS
PROJECT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the non-profit organization Sing for Hope, located in midtown Manhattan and dedicated to making the arts accessible to all. The Sing for Hope vision of "art for all" reflects their belief that the arts have the unique power to uplift, unite, and transform individuals and communities. They rely on the time and services donated by over 1,000 local New York City artists and performers who perform in schools, community centers and healthcare facilities. The mission of Sing for Hope is defined by the volunteer service of artists, and their belief in the transformative power of the arts.

The co-founding Directors of Sing for Hope, Camille Zamora and Monica Yunus, are internationally acclaimed opera singers who met as students at Juilliard. They established Sing for Hope in 2006 as a vehicle to encourage artists to give back to their communities. Since then, Sing for Hope has brought the magic of the arts to underserved communities throughout New York City and implemented a variety of outreach programs serving children, senior citizens, and people recovering from illness at healthcare facilities.

This summer marks the return of a very popular program created by Sing for Hope—"The Sing for Hope Pianos." Eighty-eight colorfully decorated pianos, which symbolize the 88 keys of a piano, are placed throughout New York City's public spaces in all five boroughs, for all members of the public to play and to enjoy. After the project ends, the pianos are then donated to underresourced schools and hospitals. "The Sing for Hope Pianos" are a striking embodiment of the role the arts play in our lives, and remind us that everyone should have access to treasured cultural resources. This year's return of "The Sing for Hope Pianos" has been made possible by the dedicated generosity of several entities: Chobani, Inc., a New York State-based company led by its President & CEO, Hamdi Ulukaya, as well as the Arnhold Foundation in honor of Sissy Arnhold, the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation, and the Bill and Ann Ziff Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and congratulating Sing for Hope on this year's "Sing for Hope Pianos" project, as well as their ongoing dedication to volunteer service and community engagement, through encouraging greater access to the arts.

MS. LISA TATUM, J.D. ELECTED
FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN
PRESIDENT OF THE STATE BAR
OF TEXAS

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary accomplishment of Ms. Lisa Tatum, J.D. On June 21, 2013, Ms. Tatum will be sworn in as the 133rd President of the State Bar of Texas, and thereby become the first African American to hold that position. With exceptional dedication, Ms. Tatum has risen through the ranks of the legal profession to become one of the preeminent lawyers in the State of Texas.

Ms. Tatum grew up and still resides in San Antonio, TX, the product of an Air Force veteran father and a loving mother. In 1991, she received her Bachelor's degree from Smith College before going on to receive her Juris Doctor in 1994 from Santa Clara University Law School. Ms. Tatum quickly attained distinction in the legal profession, prosecuting over a hundred cases for Bexar County's Criminal District Attorney's Office before successfully transitioning to private practice. Eventually, Ms. Tatum established her own law firm, LM Tatum, PLLC, informally known as The Tatum Law Practice, in 2011. The

Tatum Law Practice primarily handles cases related to corporate, public finance, financial transaction, employment, and estate contingency planning law. In addition to her remarkable career accomplishments, Ms. Tatum is a Leadership San Antonio graduate, lifelong supporter of the YMCA, and a Rotarian.

Ms. Tatum's leadership has been consistently recognized by her colleagues: Ms. Tatum was honored with a Presidential Citation in 2006 and named a Texas Rising Star by SuperLawyers in 2007. She also served on the Board of Governors of the National Bar Association, City of San Antonio Housing Authority Commission, the San Antonio Water System Citizen Advisory Panel, and as President of the San Antonio Black Lawyers Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to pay tribute to Ms. Tatum, an accomplished lawyer and public servant. She is a determined and driven individual who will bring her diverse skills and life experience to the presidency of the State Bar of Texas.

RETIREMENT PLAN SIMPLIFICATION
AND ENHANCEMENT ACT
OF 2013

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to come before the House to reintroduce the Retirement Plan Simplification and Enhancement Act of 2013. Our current retirement plan rules are very complicated. My bill includes a number of common sense reforms that will simplify the rules while still protecting participants.

For example, under current law, small businesses that adopt a new retirement plan are eligible for a tax credit to cover some of their start-up costs. We're increasing the credit to \$5,000 to cover all of these expenses. I hope this will encourage more small employers to sponsor retirement plans.

Also, currently employers can exclude some part-time workers from participating in their 401(k) plans. As women are more likely than men to work part-time, these rules can be quite harmful for women in preparing for retirement. So my bill would require employers to allow certain long-term, part-time workers to make elective deferrals to their 401(k) plans.

My bill also reforms the Saver's Credit. The current Saver's Credit provides a tax incentive for families to save for retirement. However, because the Saver's Credit is currently non-refundable, it does not benefit those who need it most—low and moderate income households who have little or no federal income tax liability. Therefore, my bill would make the Saver's Credit refundable and also incentivize taxpayers to pay the credit into their retirement accounts.

The Retirement Plan Simplification and Enhancement Act also would establish a new automatic enrollment safe harbor. It was my legislation that established the existing safe harbor that promotes automatic enrollment in 401(k) plans. The power of inertia is a powerful tool. And automatically enrolling employees in 401(k)s unless they decide to opt out is a simple and effective way to harness this